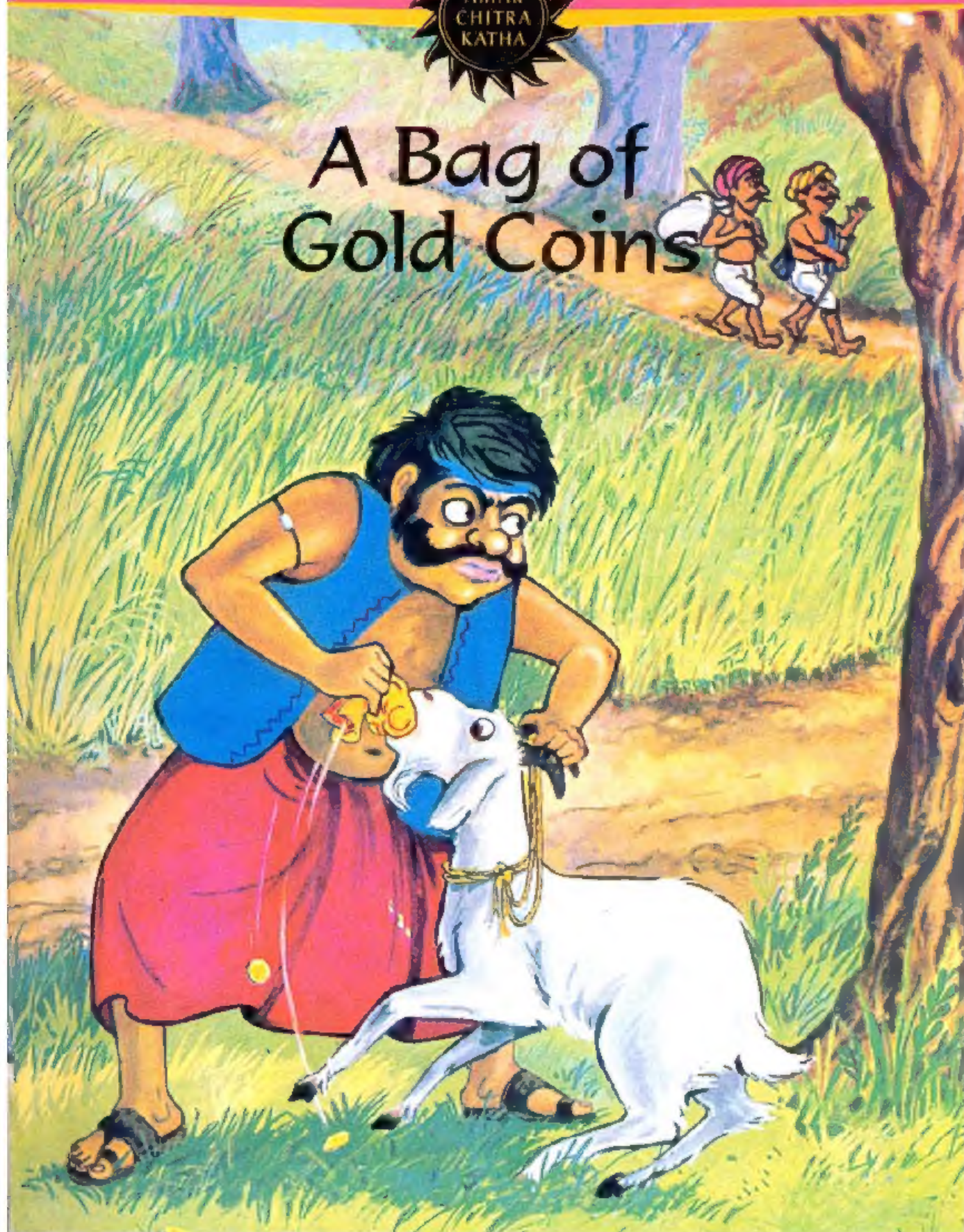




A Bag of Gold Coins





Illustrated Classics From India

A Bag of Gold Coins

The two stories in this Amar Chitra Katha are adapted from *Anwar-i-Suhaili*, a Persian version of the *Panchatantra*, written by Hussain Ali Waiz. Born in the kingdom of Khurasan at the time of Sultan Hussain Mirza (1469-1506 AD), Waiz took the liberty of changing the names of characters to give them local appeal.

The stories from *Anwar-i-Suhaili*, with its singularly beautiful writing, were illustrated many times by eminent painters in the courts of Akbar and Jahangir. It is one of the most beautiful expositions of the early phase of Mughal painting. Only three copies of the book have been found. Two of them are in India and the third in a museum in London.

In Waiz's version of the first story, the bag of gold coins is stuffed into the mouth of a cow, which is later killed. To avoid hurting the sentiments of a vast section of Indians, we have shown a goat in our version.

Script: Shanti Devi Motichandra Illustrations: V. B. Halbe Cover: V. B. Halbe

A BAG OF GOLD COINS



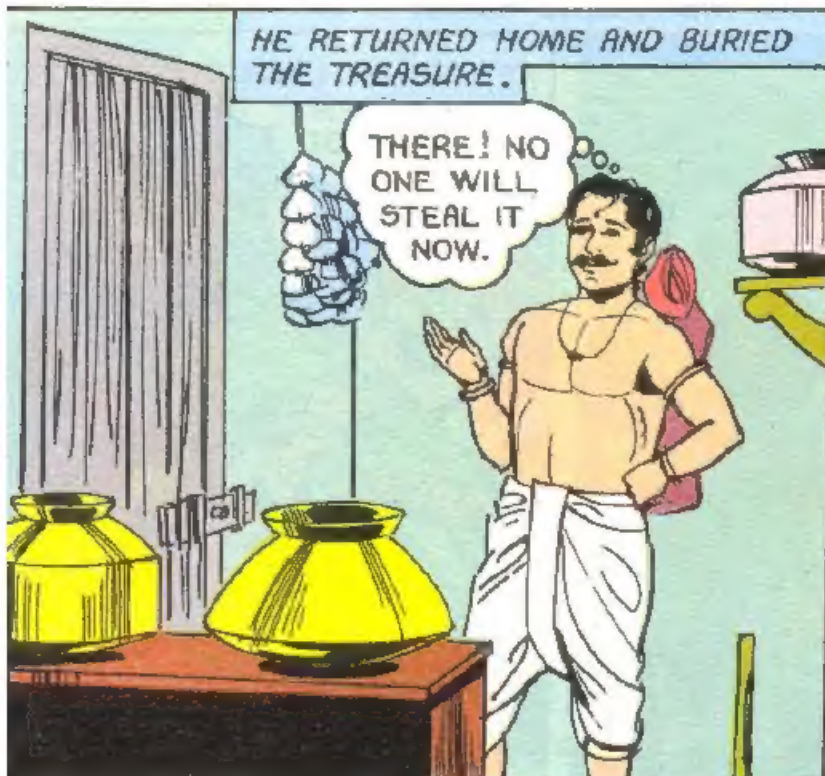
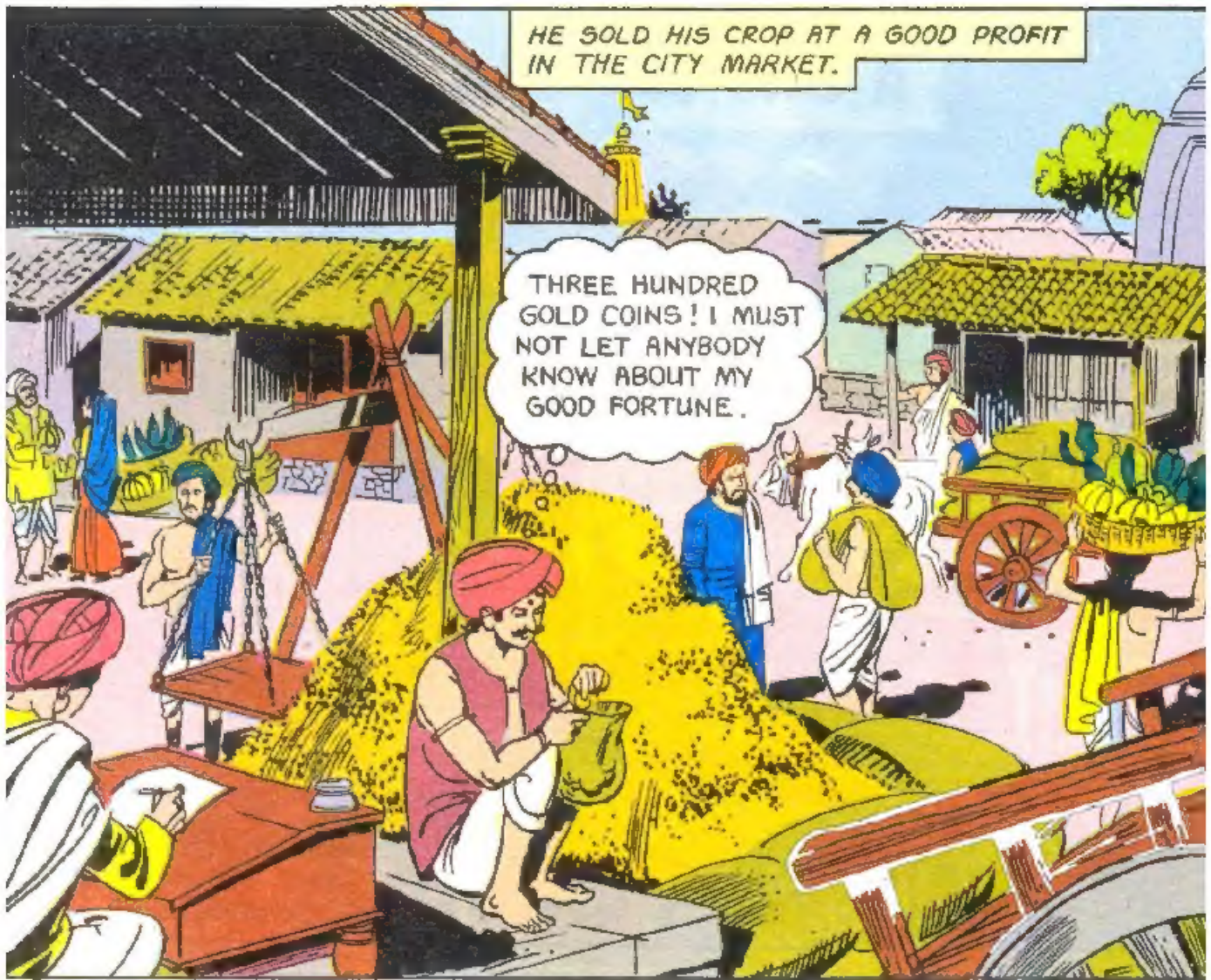
LONG, LONG AGO THERE LIVED A FARMER WHO ALWAYS WORKED HARD.

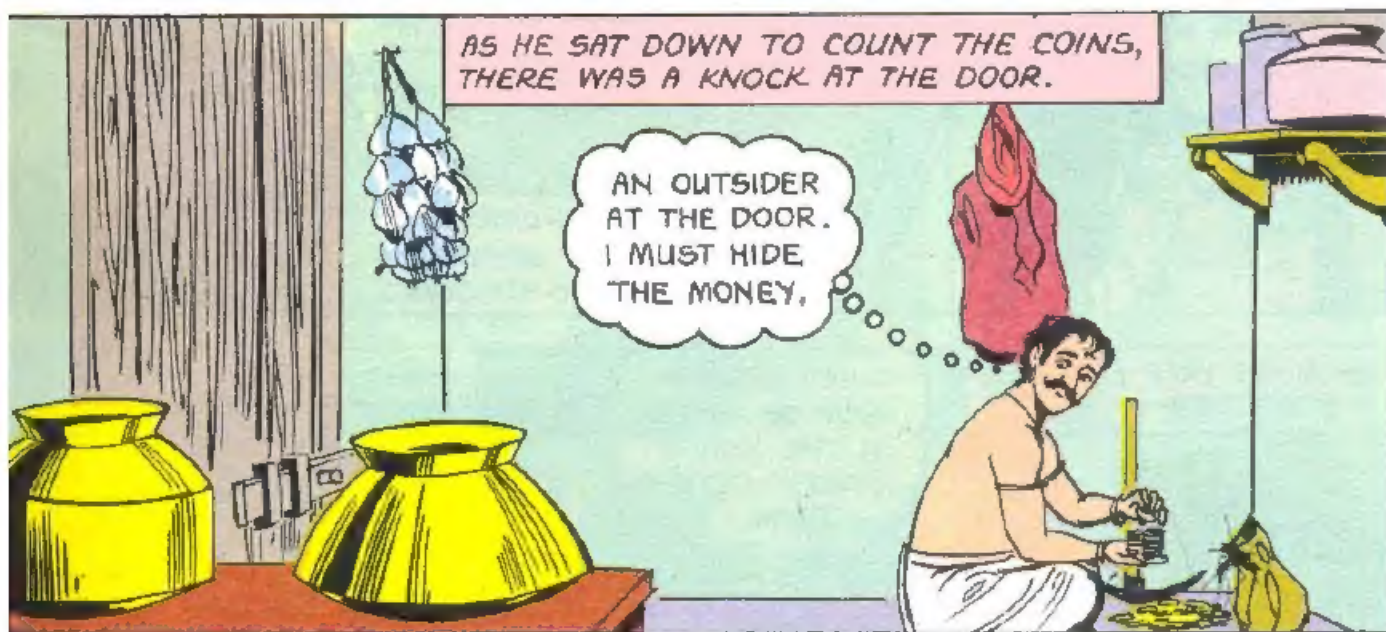
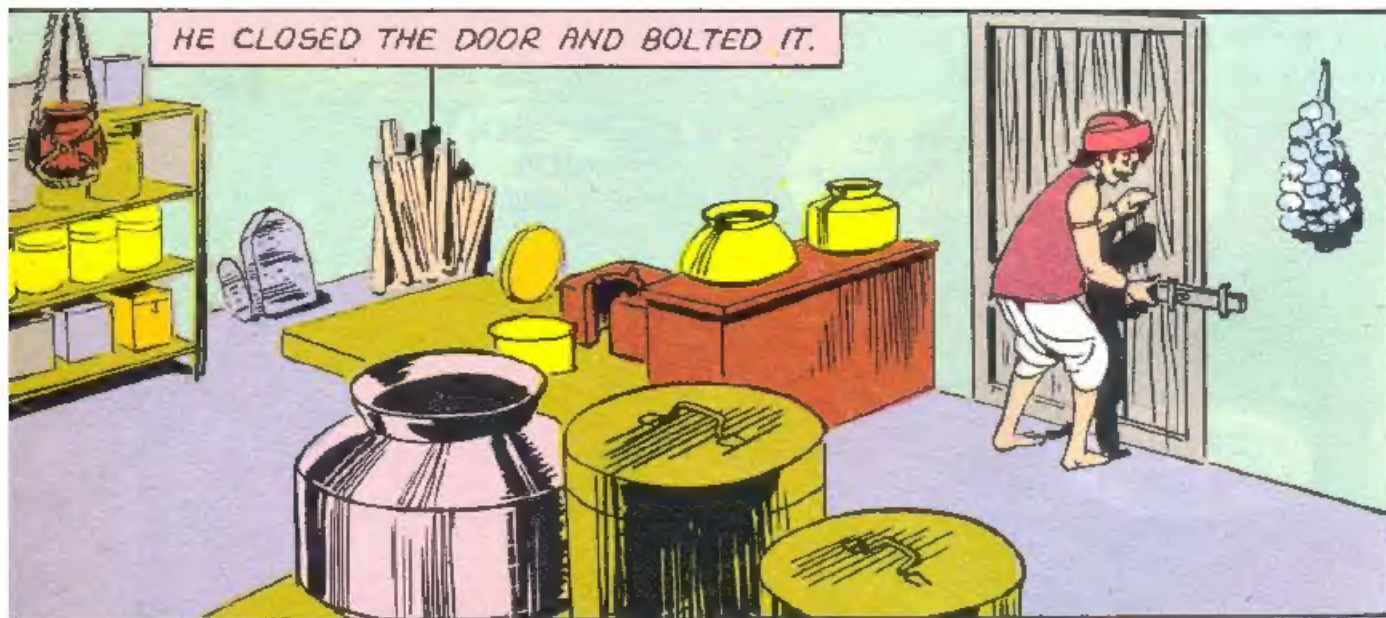


WITH HIS TOIL, HE RAISED A BUMPER CROP.



AT LAST MY LABOUR
HAS BEEN
REWARDED!

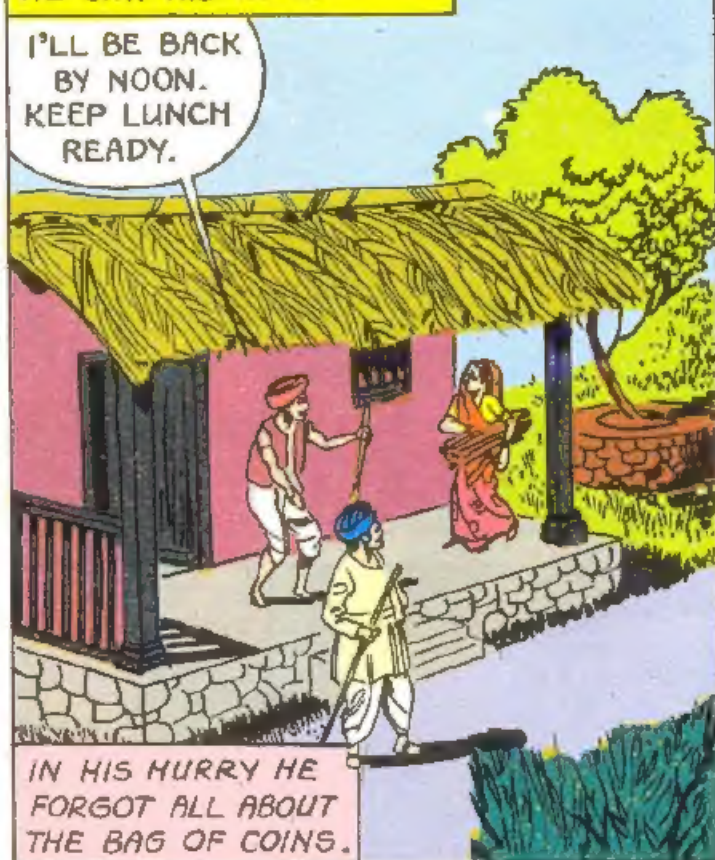




HE THEN OPENED THE DOOR. IT WAS
A FRIEND OF HIS OUTSIDE.



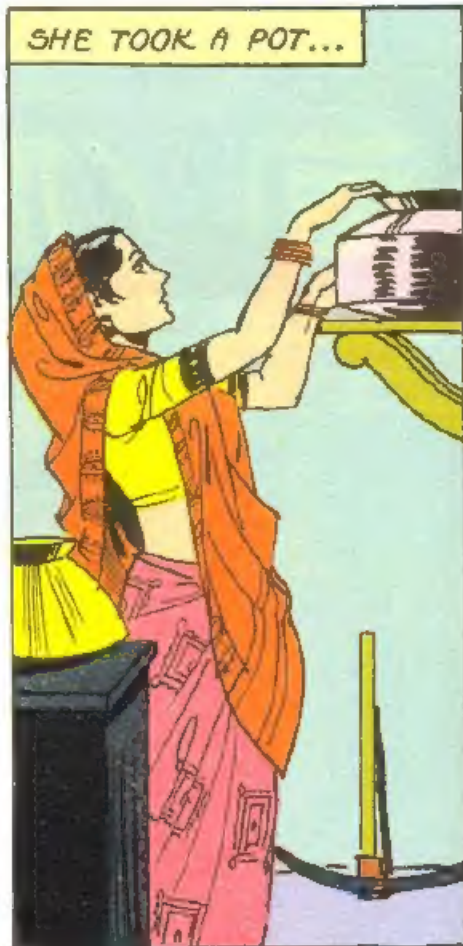
AS HE WAS SETTING OUT,
HE SAW HIS WIFE.



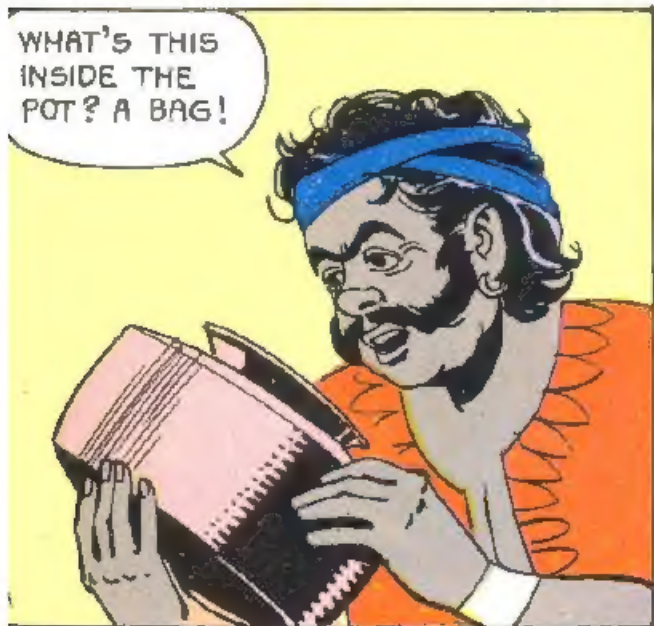
WHEN HIS WIFE ENTERED
THE KITCHEN—



SHE TOOK A POT...



..AND WAS ABOUT TO SET OUT FOR THE RIVER, WHEN A THOUGHT SUDDENLY STRUCK HER,



HE PUT DOWN THE POT AND EXAMINED THE BAG.

GOLD COINS, ALL OF THEM! THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY!

HE FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE WATER AND WALKED TOWARDS THE CITY.

I WILL GIVE A FEAST TO MY FRIENDS.

HE BOUGHT A FAT GOAT AT THE MARKET, ON HIS WAY BACK —

WHAT A FOOL AM I, TO CARRY THE BAG OPENLY!

I MUST HIDE IT IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT BETTER PLACE THAN THE GOAT'S INSIDE!

AS HE WENT FARTHER, HE MET HIS SON.

TAKE THIS GOAT HOME.
I HAVE SOME WORK
IN THE TOWN.

ALL RIGHT,
FATHER.

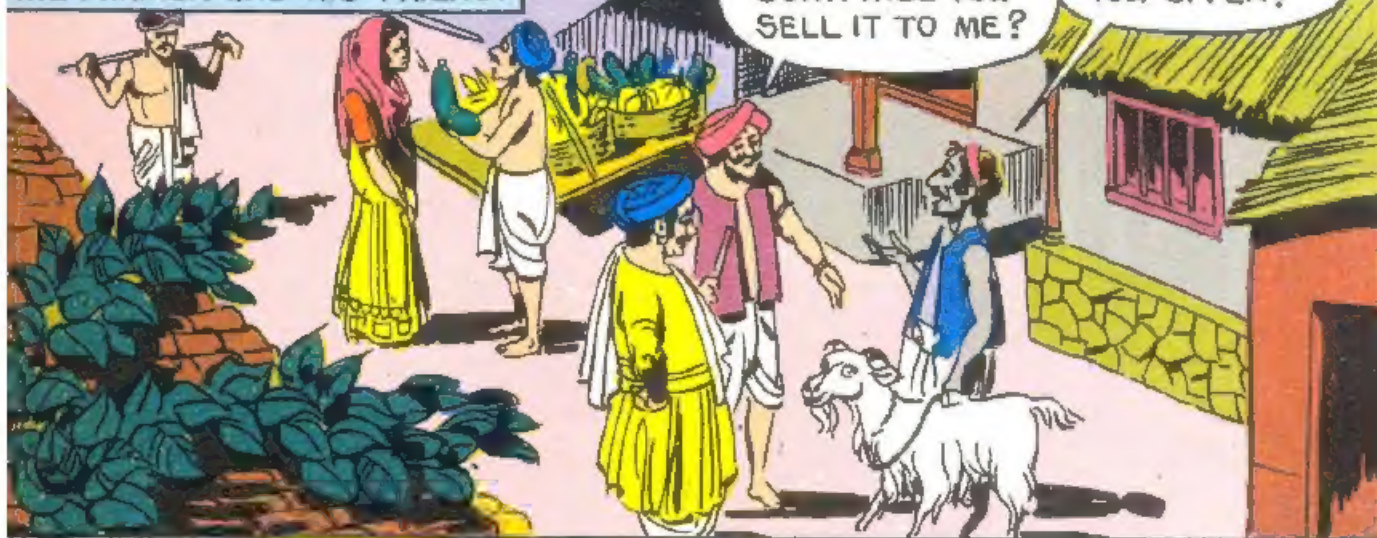


I PAID TWO GOLD COINS
FOR THAT GOAT. SEE
THAT YOU TAKE
GOOD CARE
OF IT.

I WILL,
FATHER.



ON HIS WAY HOME, THE YOUTH MET
THE FARMER AND HIS FRIEND.



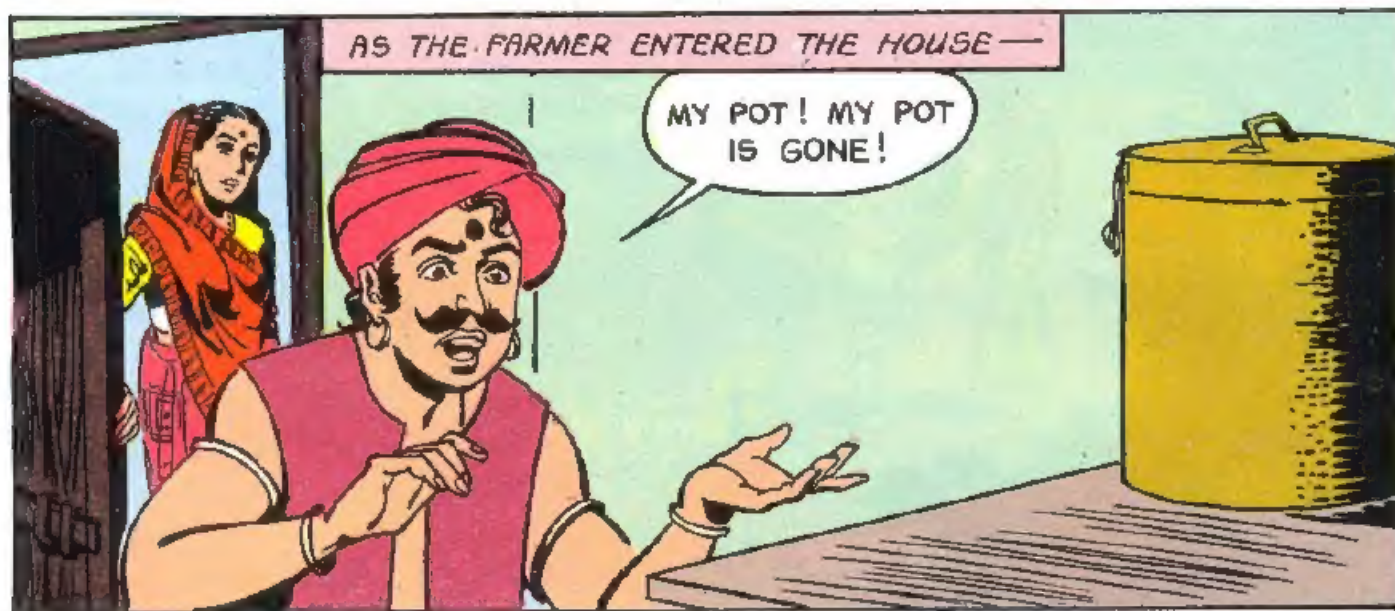
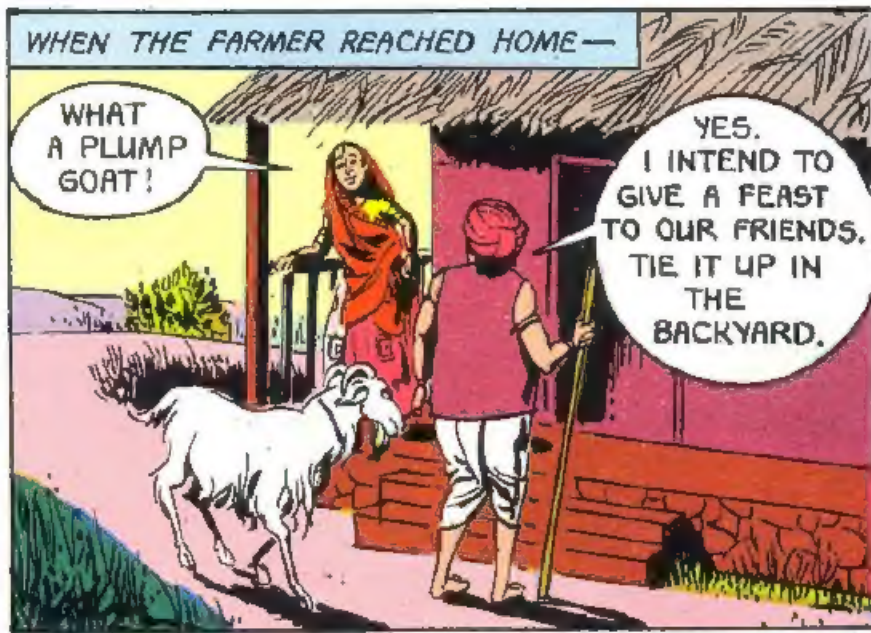
THIS IS A FINE
GOAT. WILL YOU
SELL IT TO ME?

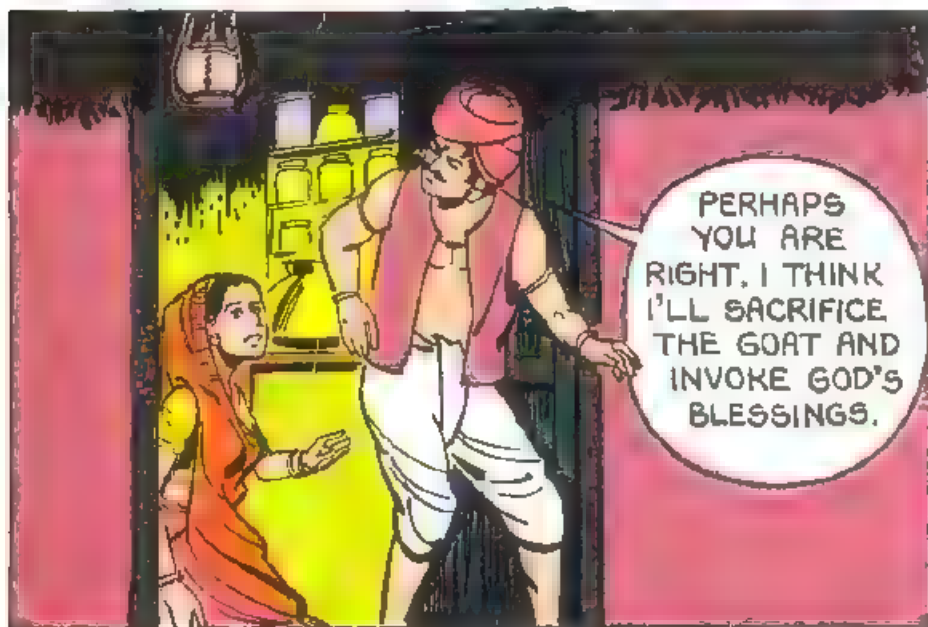
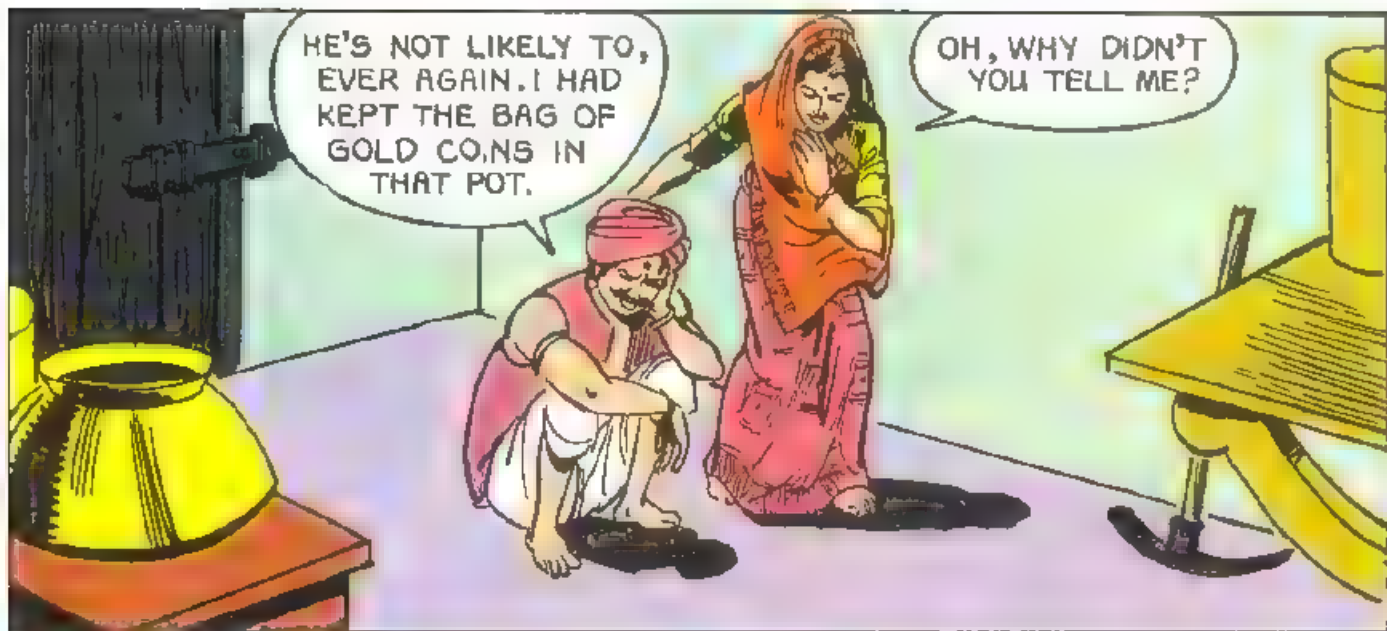
HOW MUCH WILL
YOU OFFER?

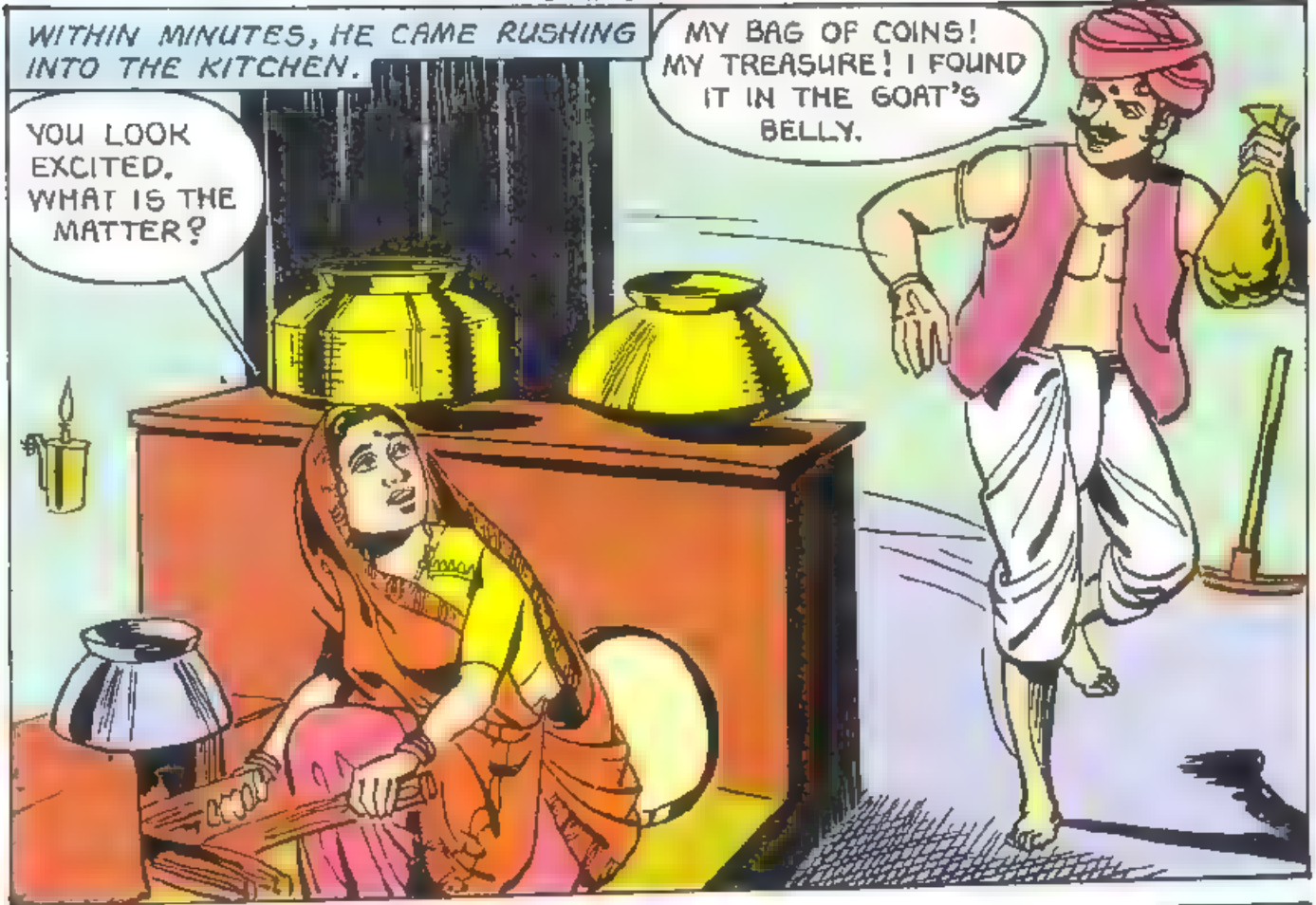


THREE GOLD
COINS.

THE
GOAT IS
YOURS.

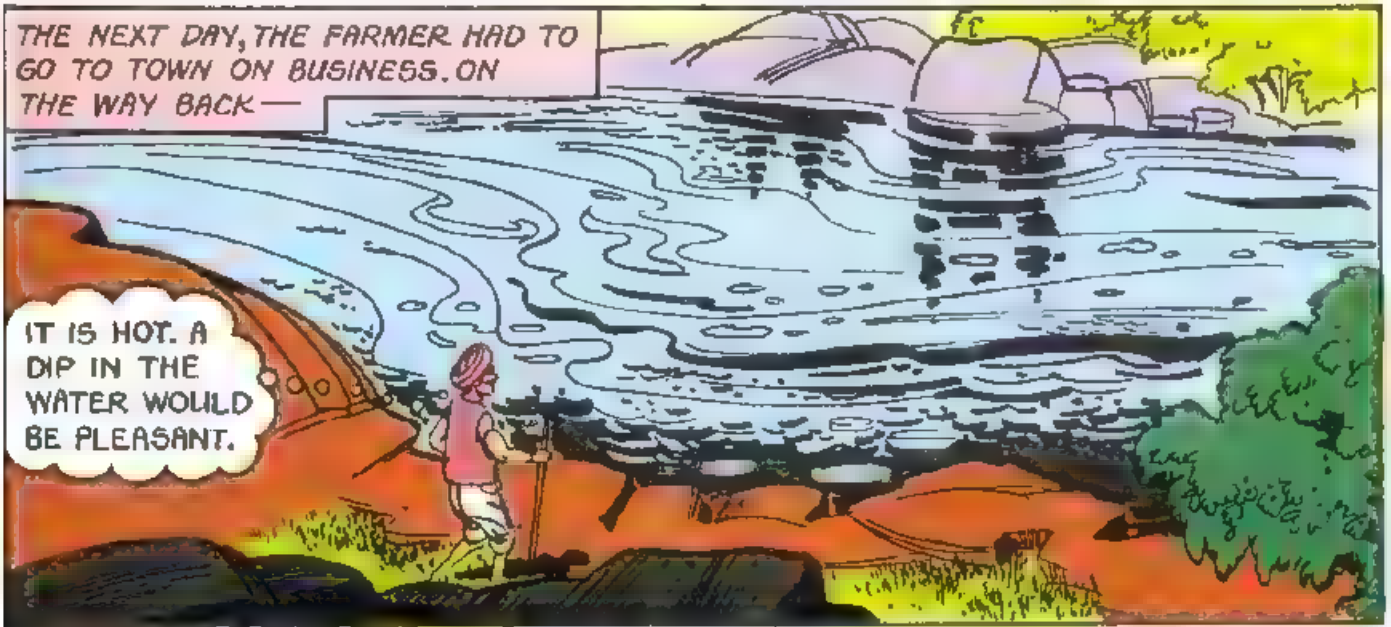




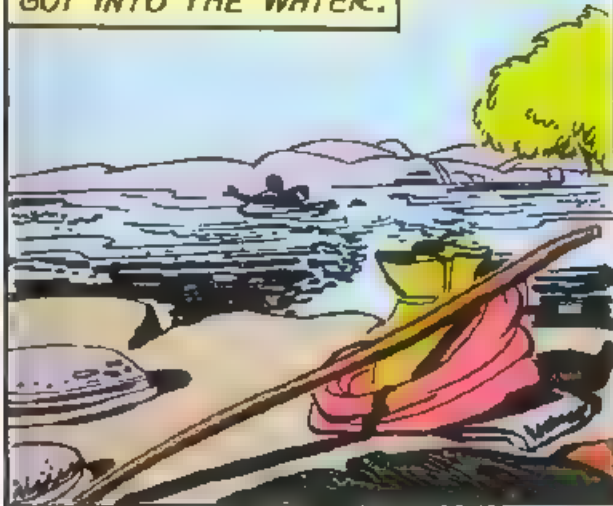


THE NEXT DAY, THE FARMER HAD TO GO TO TOWN ON BUSINESS. ON THE WAY BACK —

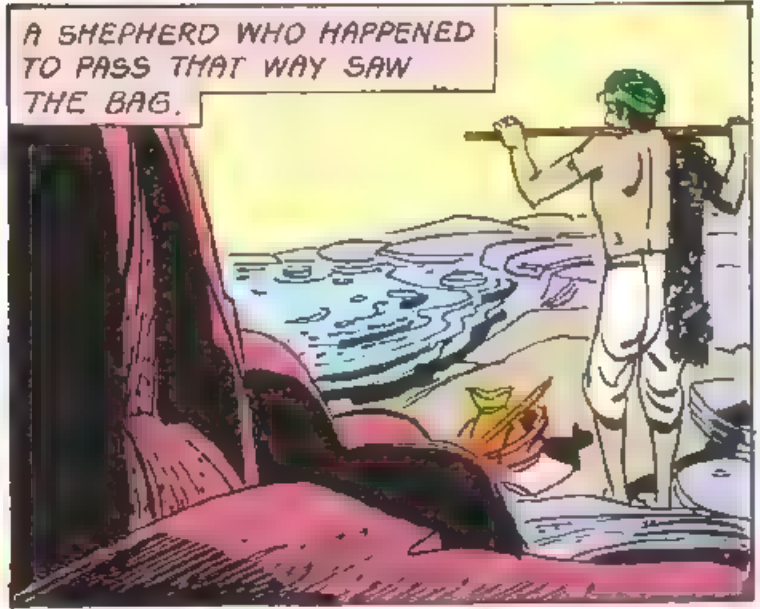
IT IS HOT. A DIP IN THE WATER WOULD BE PLEASANT.



LEAVING THE CLOTHES AND THE BAG OF COINS ON THE BANK, HE GOT INTO THE WATER.



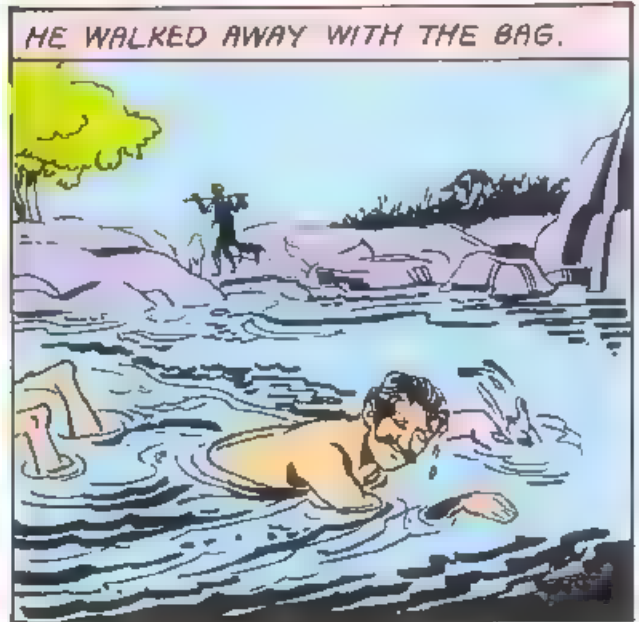
A SHEPHERD WHO HAPPENED TO PASS THAT WAY SAW THE BAG.

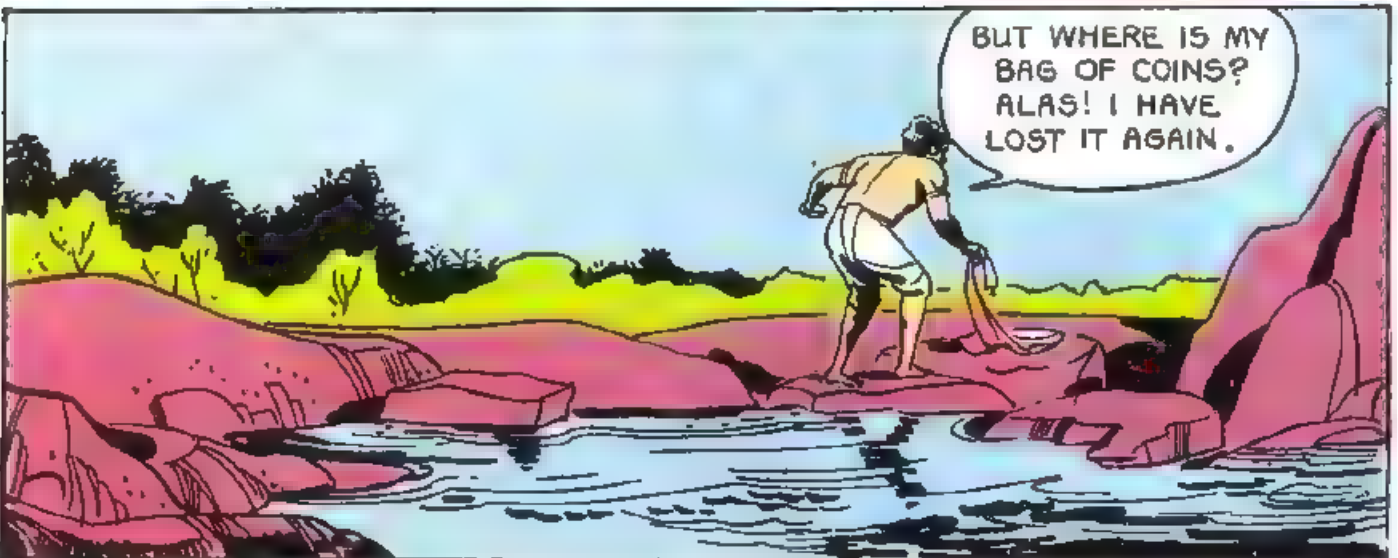
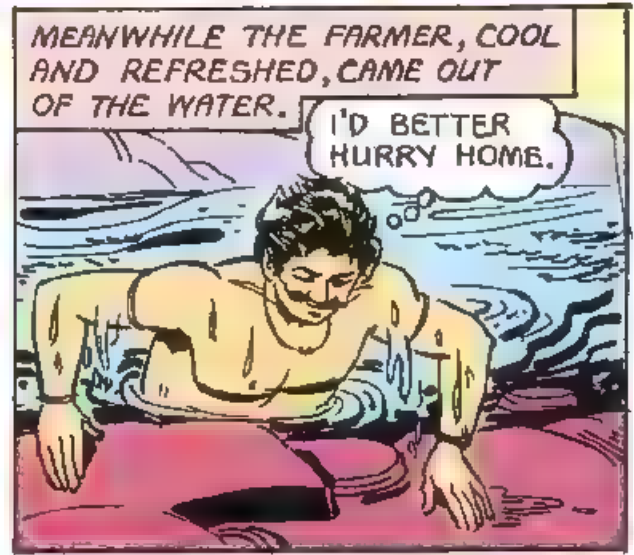
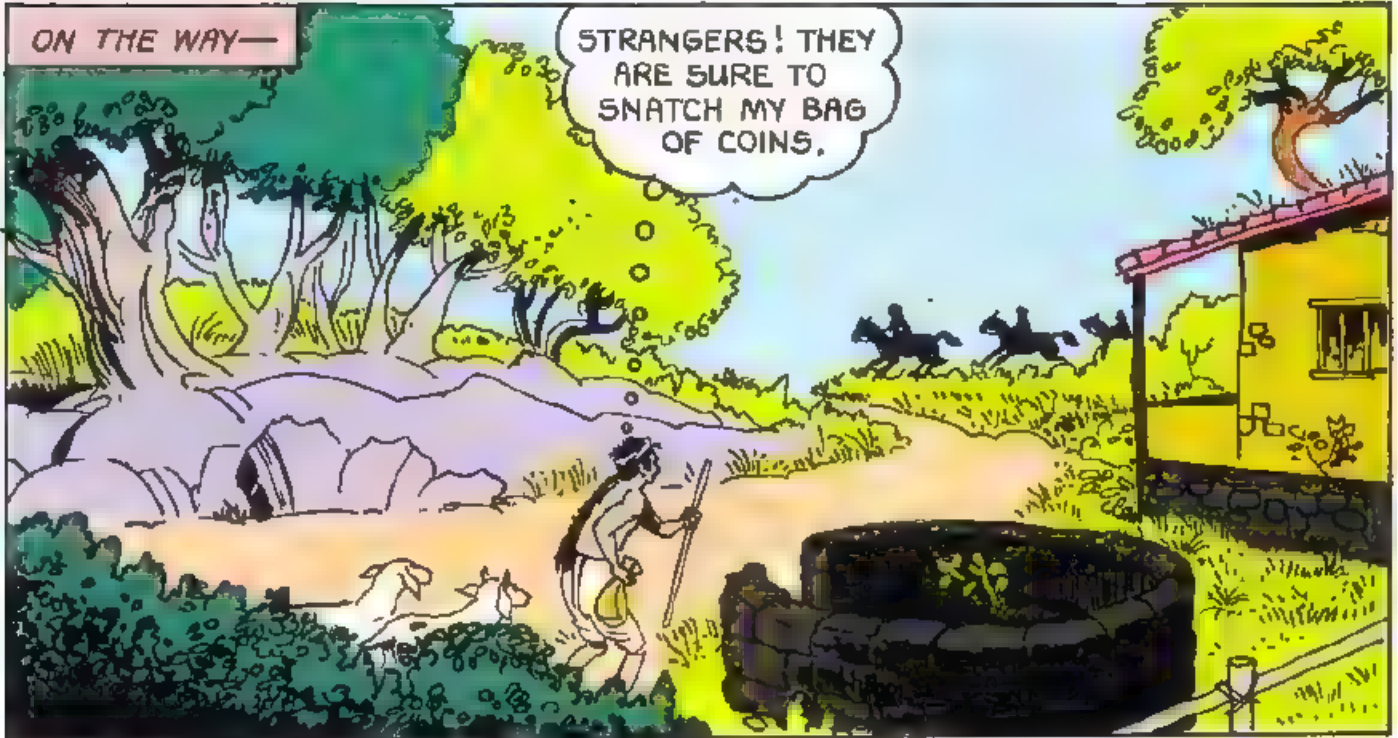


GOLD COINS!
THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY.

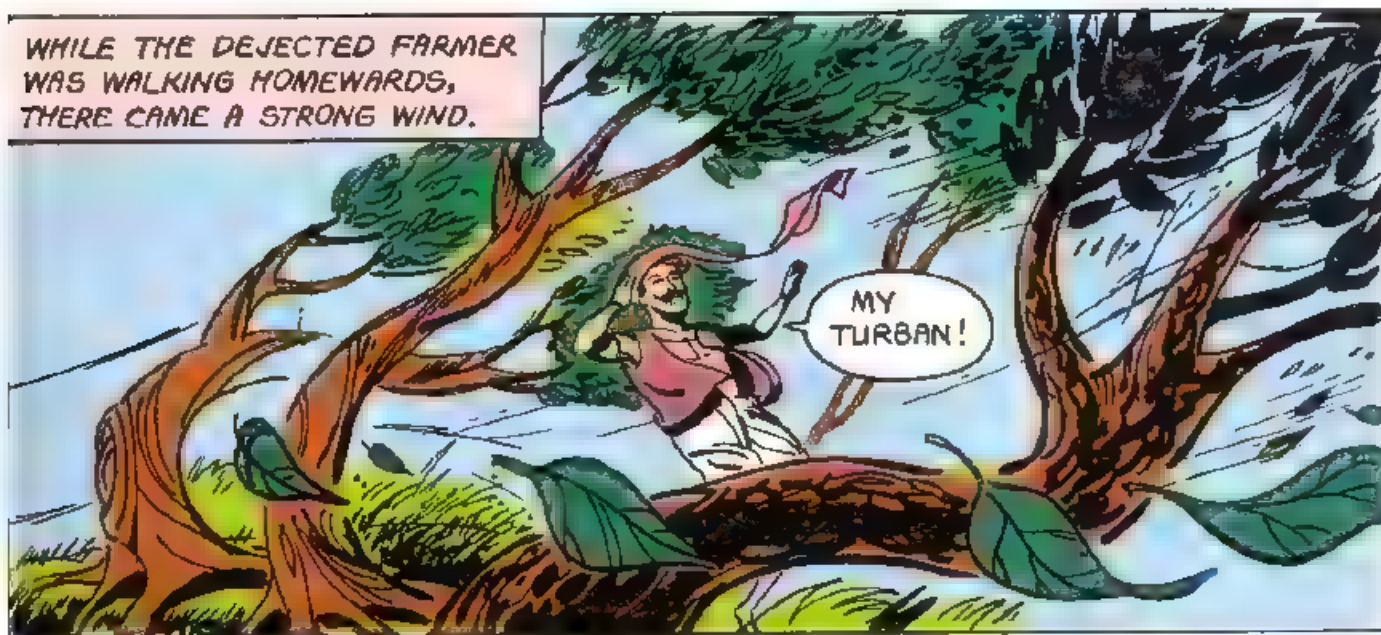


HE WALKED AWAY WITH THE BAG.

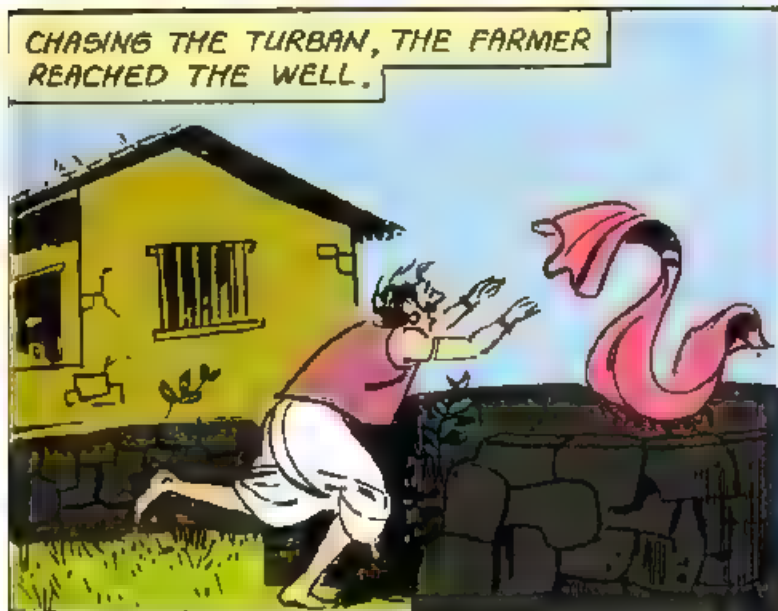




WHILE THE DEJECTED FARMER WAS WALKING HOMEWARDS, THERE CAME A STRONG WIND.



CHASING THE TURBAN, THE FARMER REACHED THE WELL.



HELP!



MY TREASURE!
I'VE FOUND
IT!



HE CLIMBED OUT OF
THE WELL...



THE NEXT DAY, THE FARMER AND THE SHEPHERD RAN INTO EACH OTHER AT THE VILLAGE MARKET.

YOU LOOK UNHAPPY. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I HAD HIDDEN A BAG OF GOLD COINS IN A WELL. NOW IT HAS DISAPPEARED.



THEN THE BAG I PICKED UP FROM THE WELL WAS NOT MINE.



YOUR MONEY IS SAFE. I FOUND THE BAG AND I THOUGHT IT WAS THE ONE I HAD LOST ON THE RIVER BANK. COME WITH ME AND I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.



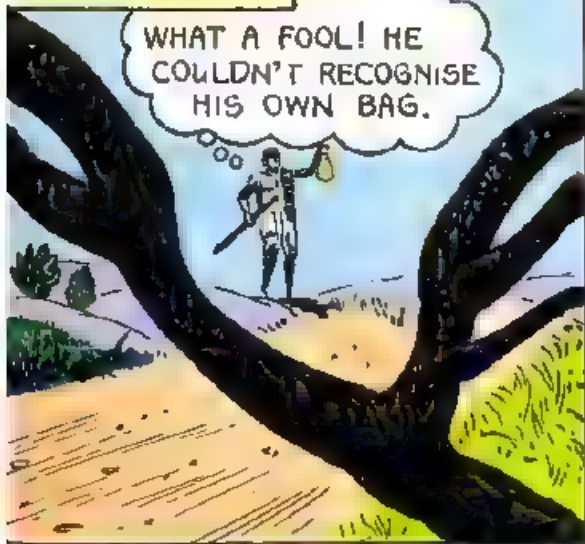
THE FARMER TOOK HIM HOME AND GAVE HIM THE BAG OF COINS.

I HOPE YOU SOON FIND YOUR BAG.



AS THE SHEPHERD WALKED
HOMEWARDS —

WHAT A FOOL! HE
COULDN'T RECOGNISE
HIS OWN BAG.

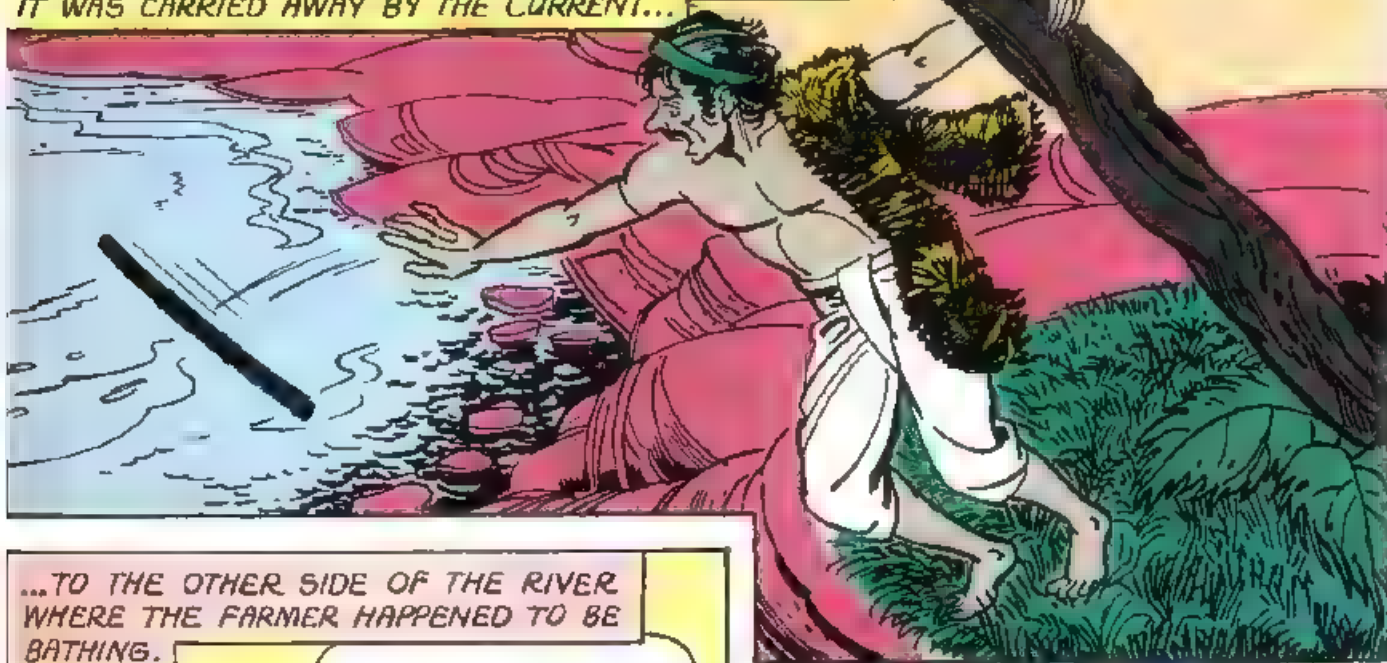


WHEN THE SHEPHERD REACHED HOME —

THE COINS WILL BE
SAFER IN THE HOLLOW
OF MY STAFF.

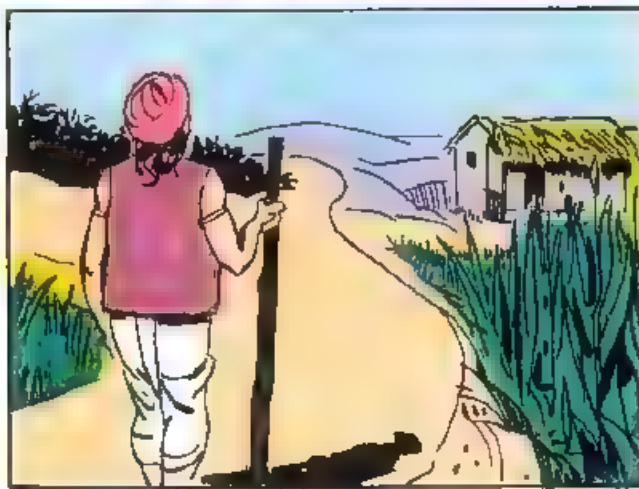


THE NEXT DAY, AS HE WAS WALKING BY THE RIVER, HE TRIPPED AND THE STAFF
FELL FROM HIS HAND. BEFORE HE COULD RETRIEVE IT,
IT WAS CARRIED AWAY BY THE CURRENT...

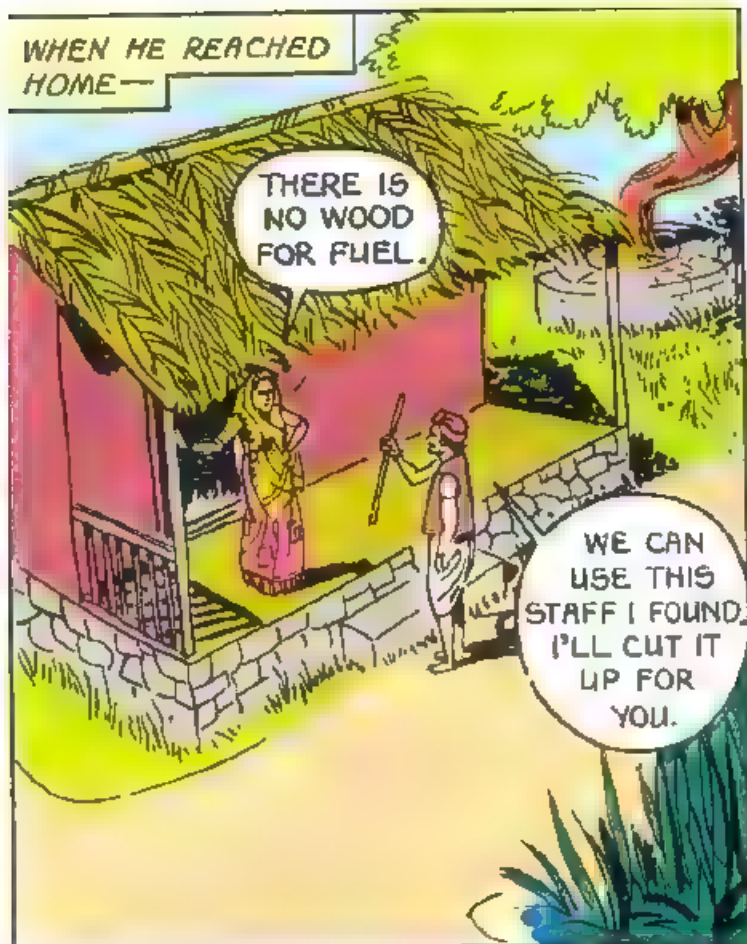


...TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER
WHERE THE FARMER HAPPENED TO BE
BATHING.

A STAFF! I MAY FIND
SOME USE FOR IT.
I'LL TAKE IT HOME.

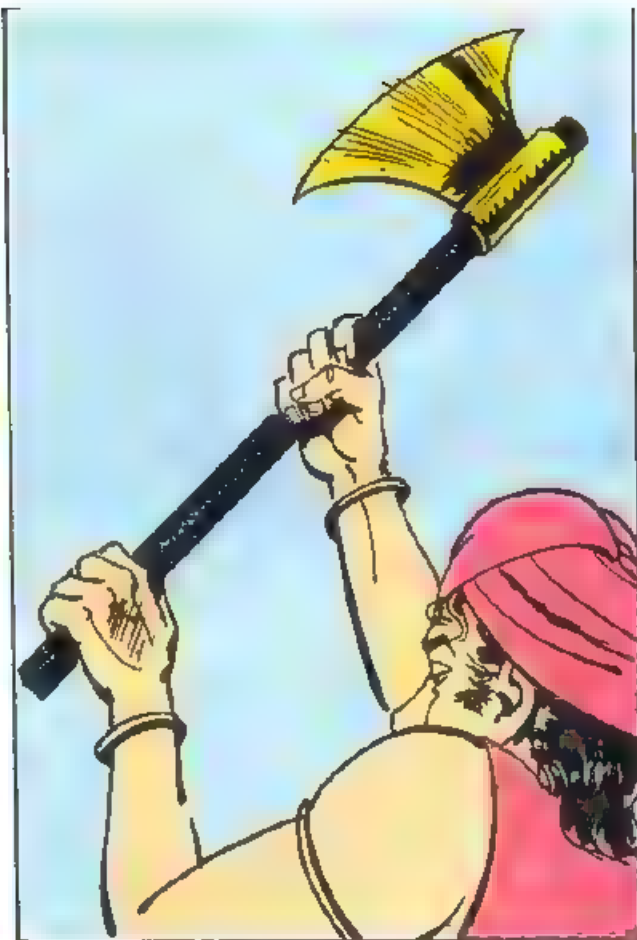


WHEN HE REACHED HOME—



THERE IS NO WOOD FOR FUEL.

WE CAN USE THIS STAFF I FOUND. I'LL CUT IT UP FOR YOU.



WHEN HE BROUGHT THE AXE DOWN ON THE STAFF—



MY GOLD COINS!

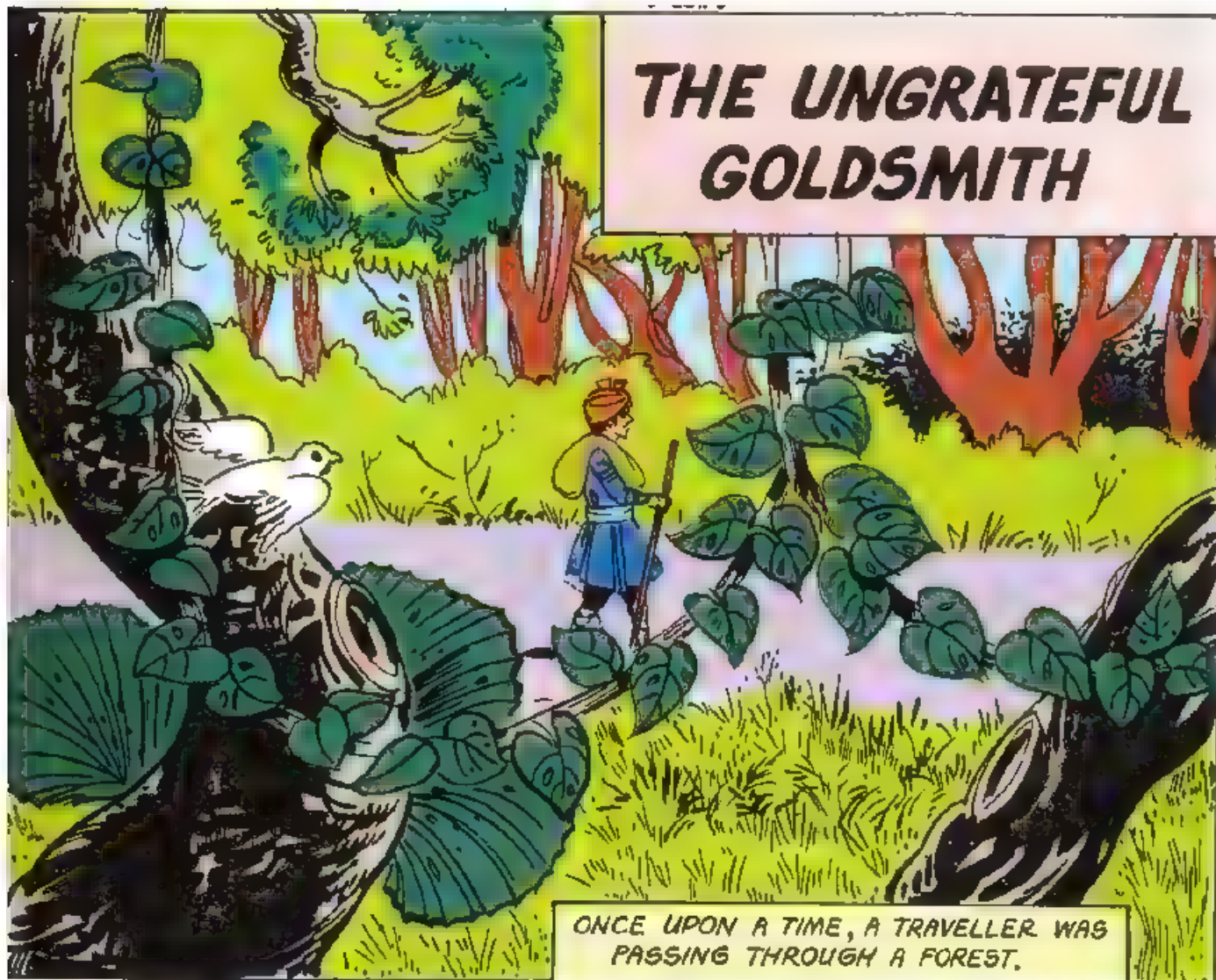
THRICE HAVE I LOST MY COINS AND THRICE HAVE I REGAINED THEM.

GLORY BE TO GOD!



MORAL: NOBODY CAN DEPRIVE US OF WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS.

THE UNGRATEFUL GOLDSMITH



ONCE UPON A TIME, A TRAVELLER WAS PASSING THROUGH A FOREST.

SUDDENLY —

HELP! HELP!

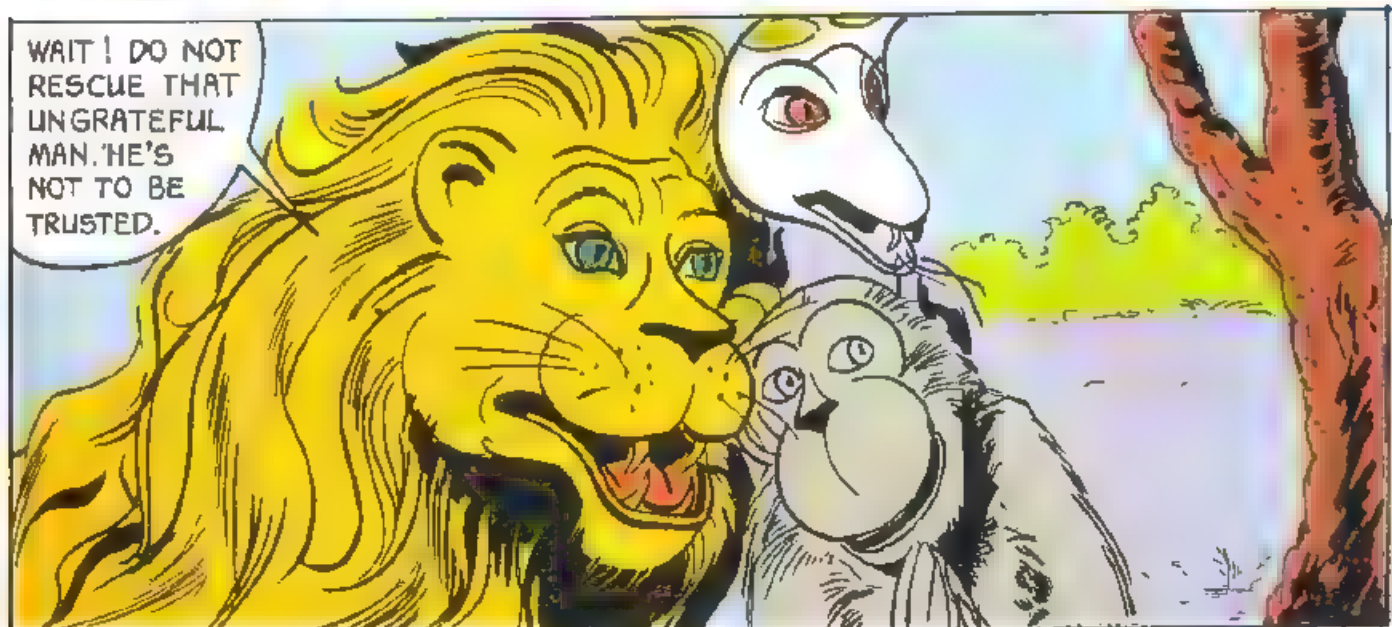
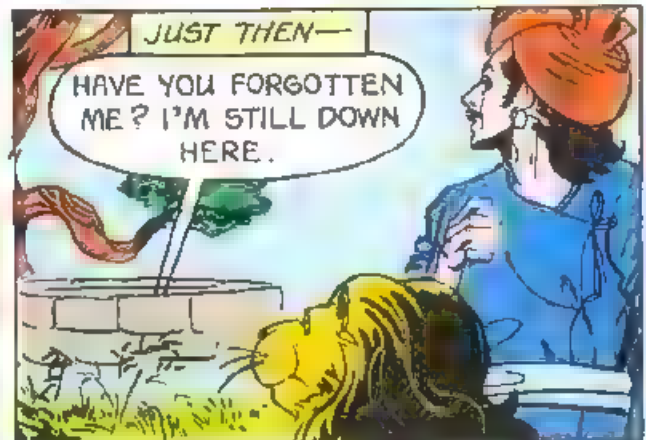
WHO IS THAT CALLING OUT FOR HELP?

HELP! HELP!

THE VOICE IS FROM THAT WELL. SOMEBODY MUST HAVE FALLEN IN.









THEY TIED HIM UP...



...PUSHED HIM DOWN THE
EDGE OF A PRECIPICE...



...AND RAN AWAY WITH HIS
BAG OF GOLD COINS.

AT THAT MOMENT, THE MONKEY WHO
HAPPENED TO BE NEAR BY, HEARD
SOMEONE CRYING FOR HELP.

THAT VOICE
SOUNDS
FAMILIAR. LET
ME SEE WHO
IT IS.

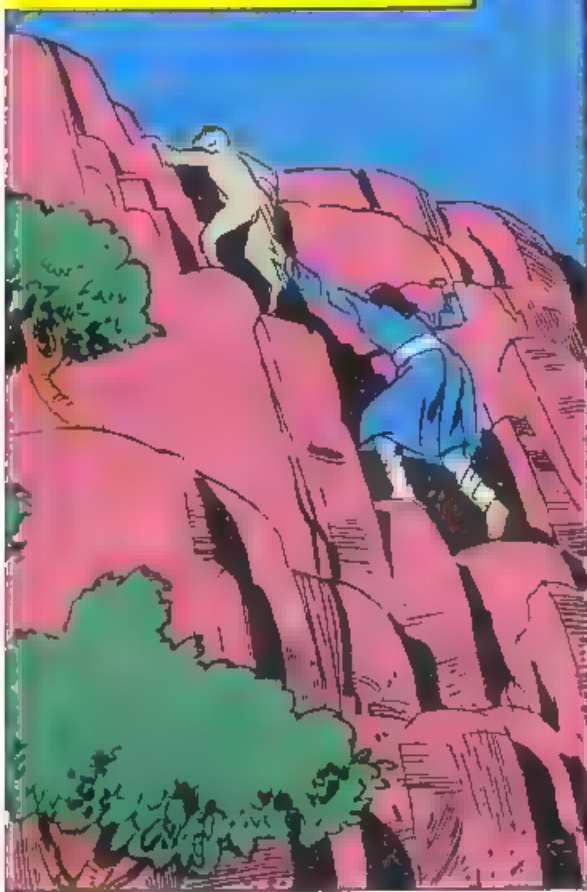


AH! IT'S YOU!
DO NOT WORRY,
MY FRIEND. I'LL
SET YOU FREE
IN NO TIME.



FORTUNATELY FOR THE TRAVELLER, HE
HAD FALLEN ON A HEAP OF GRASS.

THE MONKEY RESCUED HIM



AS HE RESTED UNDER A TREE,
THE TRAVELLER TOLD HIS TALE.

YOU STAY HERE
AND RELAX. I'LL
BRING YOU
YOUR BAG OF
GOLD COINS.



IT DID NOT TAKE THE MONKEY
LONG TO FIND THE ROBBERS.



GOOD!
THEY
ARE ALL
ASLEEP.

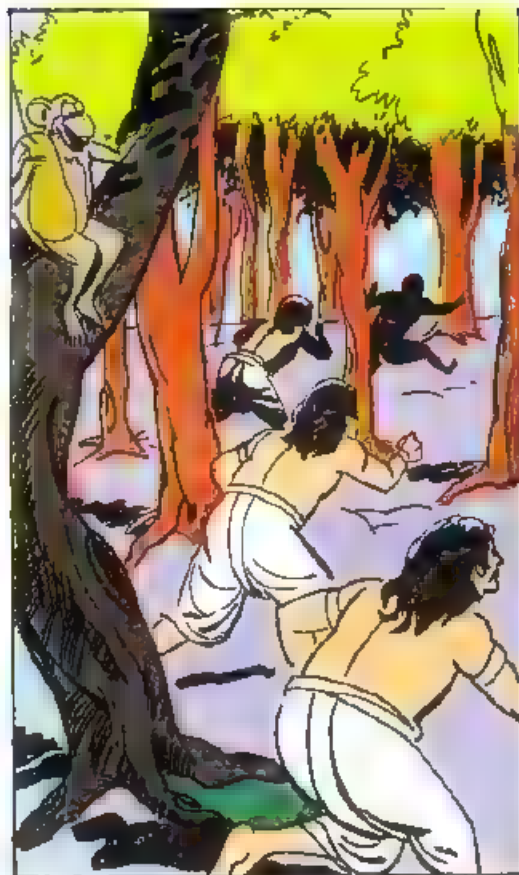
HE TOOK THEIR POSSESSIONS AND
HID THEM IN A BUSH NEAR BY.



WHEN THE ROBBERS WOKE UP—

HEY! OUR SWORDS!
OUR BOXES!
WHERE ARE
THEY?

SOME EVIL
SPIRIT HAS
WHISKED
THEM AWAY.



THE JUBILANT MONKEY CARRIED THE
BAG OF COINS TO THE TRAVELLER.

HERE IS
YOUR BAG
OF COINS.

YOU
HAVE BEEN
KIND TO ME,
MY FRIEND.



THE TRAVELLER TOOK THE BAG OF
COINS AND WENT ON HIS WAY, BUT SOON—

GRRR...

OH, GOD!
A LION!



DON'T BE AFRAID I AM YOUR FRIEND. DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?



WHY, YOU ARE THE LION OF THE WELL!



YOU ARE RIGHT. COME TO MY CAVE AND BE MY GUEST.

AT THE CAVE—

I HAVE A PRESENT FOR YOU. PLEASE ACCEPT IT.

YOU ARE VERY GENEROUS, O KING OF BEASTS.



AS THE TRAVELLER SET OUT FOR THE CITY—

HOW GRATEFUL THE ANIMALS HAVE BEEN! NOW LET ME VISIT THE GOLDSMITH.

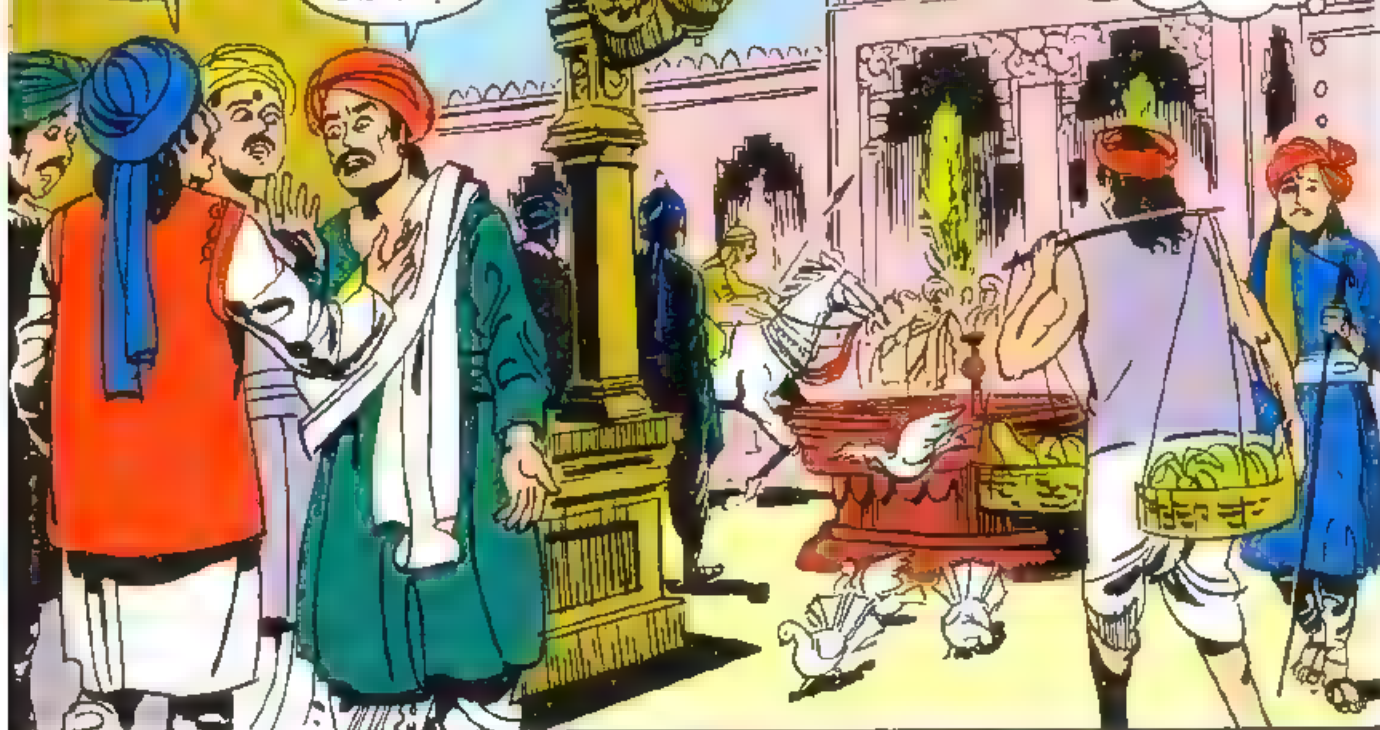


WHEN HE REACHED THE CITY,
THE NEXT MORNING —

OUR PRINCESS
IS KILLED!

DO YOU
KNOW WHO
DID IT?

IT IS HARD TO FIND
SOMEONE IN THIS
EXCITED CROWD WHO
WILL GUIDE ME TO
THE GOLDSMITH.



FORTUNATELY THE GOLDSMITH ALSO
HAPPENED TO BE IN THAT CROWD.

MY FRIEND,
IT IS A PLEASURE
TO MEET
YOU AGAIN. PLEASE
COME HOME
WITH ME.

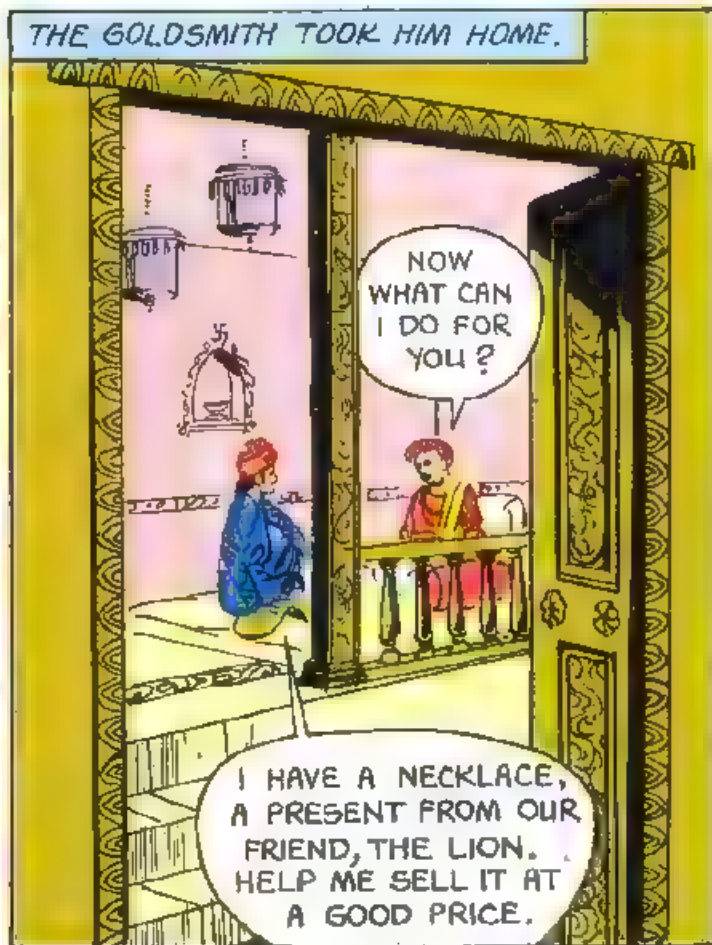
I AM GLAD
THAT YOU
REMEMBER ME.



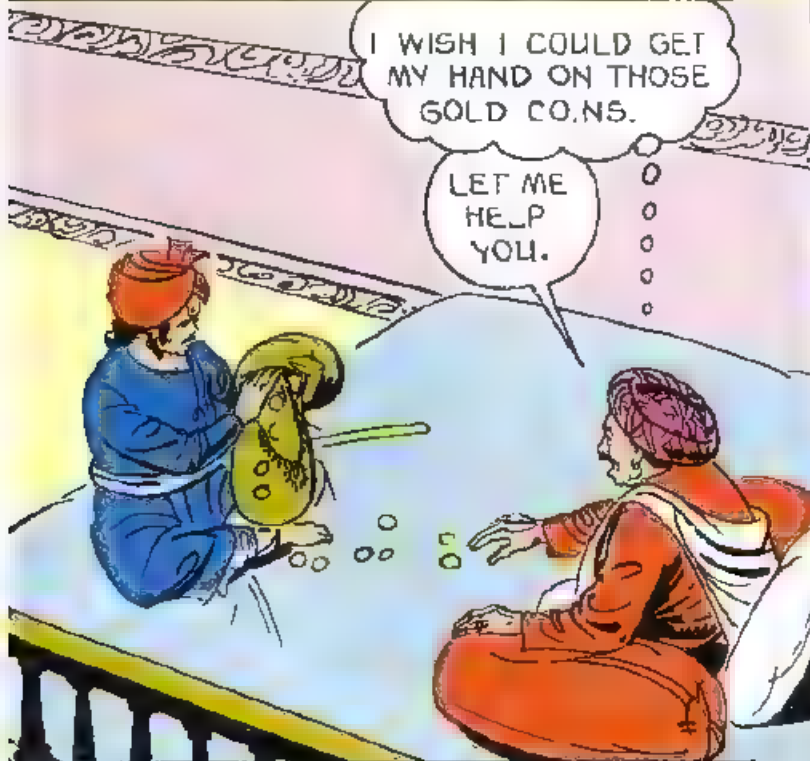
THE GOLDSMITH TOOK HIM HOME.

NOW
WHAT CAN
I DO FOR
YOU?

I HAVE A NECKLACE,
A PRESENT FROM OUR
FRIEND, THE LION.
HELP ME SELL IT AT
A GOOD PRICE.



WHILE TAKING OUT THE NECKLACE FROM THE BAG, THE TRAVELLER SPILLED A FEW COINS.



THE GOLDSMITH GATHERED THE COINS AND HANDED THEM BACK TO THE TRAVELLER.

HERE IS THE NECKLACE. AND I ALSO ENTRUST THIS BAG OF GOLD COINS TO YOU. RETURN IT TO ME WHEN I LEAVE.

YOU CAN TRUST ME WITH YOUR BAG OF GOLD COINS. AND I SHALL SELL YOUR NECKLACE FOR A HIGH PRICE.



THIS LOOKS LIKE THE NECKLACE OF THE PRINCESS. THE LION MUST HAVE KILLED HER AND GOT IT.



I WILL INFORM THE KING ABOUT THE NECKLACE. THE TRAVELLER WILL BE SUSPECTED AND HANGED. I WILL BE REWARDED AND THE COINS WILL BE MINE FOREVER.



WHEN THE KING WAS INFORMED, HE ORDERED THE ARREST OF THE TRAVELLER.

YOU TOOK THE LIFE OF THE PRINCESS. NOW YOU PAY FOR IT WITH YOUR LIFE.

YOUR MAJESTY, I AM INNOCENT.

THE NECKLACE FOUND IN YOUR POSSESSION PROVES YOUR GUILT. YOU WILL BE HANGED TOMORROW AT SUNRISE.

OH GOD!

THE TRAVELLER WAS KEPT IN PRISON FOR THE NIGHT.

THE ANIMALS WERE RIGHT. THE GOLDSMITH HAS BETRAYED MY TRUST.

TAKE HEART. NOT EVERYTHING IS LOST. I'M HERE.

IT'S YOU, MY FRIEND. BUT HOW WILL YOU SAVE ME?

I WILL GO AND BITE THE QUEEN MOTHER.





AS THE TRAVELLER CONCLUDED HIS STORY—

THE PRINCESS MIGHT
HAVE BEEN KILLED
BY THE LION. THE
GREEDY GOLDSMITH
LIED ABOUT ME.

HE SHALL BE
PUNISHED.
NOW PLEASE
CURE HER.



THE TRAVELLER MIXED
THE HERB IN A GLASS
OF MILK...



...AND MADE THE QUEEN
MOTHER DRINK IT.



MOTHER!
DO YOU FEEL
BETTER?



I DO, MY SON.
SEE THAT THE
ONE WHO SAVED
MY LIFE IS
AMPLY REWARDED.

THE KING TURNED TO THE TRAVELLER.

PLEASE ACCEPT
THIS BAG OF
GOLD COINS.

THANK
YOU, YOUR
MAJESTY.



BY THEN IT WAS DAYBREAK. THE
GOLDSMITH WAS WAITING AT THE
PLACE OF EXECUTION.

THE TRAVELLER
HAS NOT YET BEEN
BROUGHT. ONCE
HE IS HANGED,
I'M SAFE.



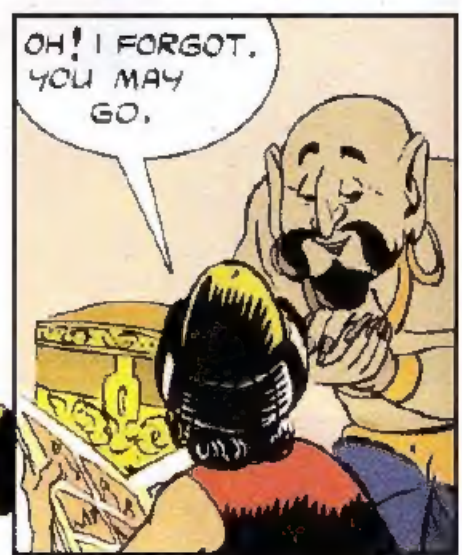
JUST THEN THE KING'S SOLDIERS CAME THERE
AND SEIZED HIM.

YOU ARE THE
GUILTY ONE!
YOU ARE TO BE
HANGED! THE
KING'S ORDERS.



MORAL: EVIL IS ALWAYS
REWARDED WITH EVIL.





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